

Barton County Commission Agenda Meeting Minutes

Recorded audio is available on compact disk upon KORA request to the Barton County Clerk's Office, 1400 Main – Room 202, Great Bend, Kansas 67530.
Phone (620) 793-1835 \ Fax (620) 793-1990 \ Email clerk@bartoncounty.org
Meetings Live Streamed through **Microsoft Teams**

September 21, 2020

The Board of Barton County Commissioners convened this 21st day of September 2020, at the Barton County Courthouse.

Members present:

Kenny Schremmer, Commissioner, 1st District, Chairman
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner, 2nd District
James R. Daily, Commissioner, 4th District
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner, 5th District *(Chairman Pro-Tem)*
Bev Schmeidler, Assistant Deputy County Clerk
Phil Hathcock, County Administrator
Patrick Hoffman, County Counselor

Members attending via phone/Teams:

Don Davis, Commissioner, 3rd District

I. OPENING BUSINESS:

Commissioner Schremmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 A.M.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the agenda.
Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the minutes of the September 14, 2020, Regular Meeting.
Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.
All voted aye. Motion passed.

II. OLD BUSINESS:

There was no old business.

III. NEW BUSINESS:

A. PROCLAMATION 2020-09: National Recovery Month, September, 2020:

-Substance misuse exacts more than \$740 billion annually in costs related to crime, lost work productivity and health care. In addition, the impact of substance misuse on family dynamics increases the likelihood of Acute Childhood Experiences (ACEs). Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director and Rise Up Central Kansas community member, will present Proclamation 2020-09, National Recovery Month, September, 2020, which details the impact of recovery through better management of health, home, purpose and community.

Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director and Rise Up Central Kansas community member, told the Commission about an exciting merger with Central Kansas Partnership Drug and Alcohol Task Force and Rise Up Central Kansas. According to the CDC publication, Vital Signs, at least 5 of the top 10 causes of death are associated with ACEs. ACEs are Adverse Childhood Experiences that are potentially traumatic events that occur in childhood. Toxic stress from ACEs can change brain development and effect how the body responds to stress. ACEs are linked to chronic health problems, mental illnesses, and substance use in childhood. However, ACEs can be prevented. 61% of all adults have at least one ACE and 16% have had four or more types of ACEs. This merger can help in dealing with prevention, intervention, and resilience. Boxberger introduced Amy Ferguson, Community Liaison for the Barton County Health Department.

Amy Ferguson said she represents people in recovery who have done damage in the community and are ready to go to work making changes in the county. Ferguson and other members read the proclamation. Commissioner Daily said the efforts being put forth in this program were outstanding.

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Boxberger said the secret sauce was having those in recovery championing others.

Commissioner Schartz said she appreciated that they are taking responsibility for damage they have done and doing something positive.

Commissioner Schartz moved to adopt Proclamation 2020-09, National Recovery Month, September, 2020.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

B. CENTRAL KANSAS COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS: Fiscal Year 2020 Year End Outcomes:

-The Kansas Community Corrections Act provides grants to Kansas Counties to develop and maintain a range of programs for adult offenders assigned to Community Corrections agencies. A Comprehensive Plan (grant application) was submitted that set the goals for Fiscal Year 2020. The Year End Outcomes then set out the results at the close of the year and require the review and approval of the Barton County Commissioners, as the Administrative County for the District to which the plan pertains.

Amy Boxberger, CKCC Director, said she was happy to report a positive outcome with a revocation rate of 19% this year. Boxberger said 201 offenders were discharged from CKCC, 38 were revoked and went to prison. Due to COVID, they fell short on meeting personally with clients.

Commissioner Schartz said she appreciates all the work they are doing and noted it cannot be easy in the midst of a pandemic.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the Fiscal Year 2020 Year End Outcomes Report for Central Kansas Community Corrections and authorize the Chair to sign the forms as needed.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

C. EMPLOYERS MUTUAL CASUALTY CO: Payment of Deductible:

-Barton County's policy for insurance with Employers Mutual Casualty Co. (EMC) contains a \$10,000.00 deductible. EMC has submitted the County a bill for that amount in reference to a loss. Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, will ask for authorization to pay this billing.

Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, explained the commission was involved in a lawsuit a few years ago which was handled by EMC and said the deductible is due. Hathcock said the suit had since been dismissed and asked for permission to pay.

Commissioner Schartz moved to pay \$10,000.00 to Employers Mutual Casualty Co. (EMC) for Claim No. LA80-Z01437032. Payment to be made from the Special Liability Fund, Insurance Claims line, 025-00-5935.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

D. SPARK FUNDING: Distribution to Cities and School Districts:

-On June 16, 2020, the State Finance Council approved the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce's proposal to distribute \$5,268,052.00 to Barton County to help address the health and economic challenges inflicted by COVID-19 based on Barton County's population and impact from COVID-19 with funds provided for reimbursement of COVID-19 related costs and as direct aid unless otherwise approved by the SPARK Taskforce. Barton County has received the necessary documentation to distribute portions of these funds to the cities and school districts.

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Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said funds were directed to the county to be distributed to cities and school districts within the county. The county has a plan to distribute the monies. The SPARKS Committee has approved portions of the plan and would like to distribute the funds.

Commissioner Daily asked about the distribution. Hathcock said it was a percentage based on populations of school districts and cities.

Kris Thexton, Superintendent USD 428, said they were fortunate to be awarded as much as they were. Thexton said he spoke to other superintendents around the state who were not receiving as much funding and thanked the commission.

Commissioner Daily moved to authorize the Administration Office to distribute SPARK funds to the cities and school districts as allowed for in Resolution 2020-12. Payments to be made from the SPARK Fund, Appropriation line, 901-00-6951-60.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

E. SPARK FUNDING: Health Department:

-The Barton County Health Department has been awarded Coronavirus Relief Funds via the Strengthening People and Revitalizing Kansas (SPARK) Taskforce, as a component of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security Act (CARES Act). Funds must be expended by December 30, 2020.

Karen Winkelman, Health Director, said this specific funding was for local health departments and noted out of 75 applicants, the Barton County Health Department was 1 of 26 that were awarded funding.

Winkelman said the funds are specifically for necessary expenditures incurred during the public health emergency beginning March 1, 2020 with funds having to be expended by December 30, 2020. Some of the eligible items are medical station equipment, expanded refrigeration, supplies, coolers, thermometers, new packaging units to take vaccines out, travel and shipping costs for specimens to be submitted to labs.

Commissioner Schartz asked if there was any charge for people being tested at the Health Department. Winkelman said not at this time as the specimens are sent to the State lab in Topeka. Winkelman said moving forward, they do have some options available at some private labs. If they choose to use those, there could be costs to the patients.

Commissioner Daily asked if these funds were used to purchase the refrigeration system they recently purchased. Winkelman said yes and noted some manufacturers are looking at or are producing vaccines that needs to be frozen which would add another level of need.

Commissioner Daily said the overtime that Winkelman and her staff are working was greatly appreciated.

Information Only. No Action Required.

F. COUNTY CLERK / ELECTION OFFICE: Purchase of Voting Equipment to Improve Social Distancing at Voting Locations:

-Donna Zimmerman, County Clerk, and Sue Cooper, Grant Coordinator, included the purchase of certain election equipment in the Reimbursement and Direct Aid plans for SPARK Funding. It is, therefore, suggested that the Commission approve the purchase of six ExpressVote Ballot Marking Devices and two Poll Pads, all with appropriate software, licensing, and support. With the addition of equipment, voting locations will be able to increase social distancing measures, thus protecting both the public and election workers against the spread of COVID.

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Donna Zimmerman's absence, Phil Hathcock, County Administrator, said we were fortunate to receive SPARK funding for this purchase. Hathcock said the equipment would be used to increase social distancing at elections.

Commissioner Schartz moved to approve the purchase of ExpressVote Ballot Marking Devices, Installation and Warranty from Election Systems & Software for a total of \$27,995.00 and the purchase of Poll Pads, Integration and Maintenance from Knowlnk for a total cost of \$4,207.00. Total cost of \$32,202.00 to be paid through the SPARKS Funding – Equipment Line 901-04-6165-60.

Commissioner Daily seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

G. COUNTY ENGINEER: Purchase of Radar Recorder:

-The Engineering Department is periodically asked to study traffic counts and/or speed data on County and township roads. Barry McManaman, County Engineer, requests approval for the purchase of a Black Cat II Radar Recorder from Jamar Technologies, Inc. The purchase includes the radar recorder, software for report generation, mounting hardware, batteries and a 3-year warranty.

Barry McManaman, County Engineer, said he received a quote from Jamar Technologies, Inc. for \$4,300. McManaman said he frequently gets requests for speed and traffic counts on township and county roads and noted data is sometimes needed for applications to KDOT for bridge replacements or road projects. This recorder can be set up on the right-of-way line or on a post which is less conspicuous than someone in a vehicle with a radar gun. McManaman said the results can be generated in different reports for each situation.

Commissioner Daily asked if this would be the first time to own a radar system. McManaman said yes, they have borrowed different equipment from the KU Transportation Center. McManaman said borrowing the equipment requires sending a technician to and from Lawrence which costs around \$800 each time. A few deployments of this system would recover the costs of this system.

Commissioner Schartz asked Sheriff Bellendir if this system would be something his office could use as well. Bellendir said they would rely on McManaman's traffic studies and noted his radar must be manned, with someone observing the vehicles for enforcement purposes. McManaman could let him know from his reports where there may be problems and where selective enforcement was needed. When his office receives complaints, this unit could be deployed because he cannot have a deputy sit at a location 24/7.

Commissioner Daily moved to approve the purchase of the Black Cat II Radar Recorder from Jamar Technologies, Inc. for a total cost of \$4,300.00. Cost to be paid from the Engineering Account of the General Fund, Office Furniture and Equipment Line, 001-32-6175.

Commissioner Schartz seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

IV. ENDING BUSINESS:

1. Announcements
2. Appointments

V. OTHER BUSINESS:

- Shelly Duvall, Parent/GBHS Head Volleyball Coach: On 9/19 a JV player tested positive for COVID after already being quarantined on 9/17. Health Dept officials quarantined the entire volleyball team including those that did not have any contact with the JV team. Duvall said she was concerned about blanket quarantines and how they are affecting students. School is one of the safest places for our kids. Their job is to attend school, in her eyes they are essential workers. Does not feel proper investigations were being done in order to see who should or should not be quarantined. Because of one student, approximately 45 students were quarantined. As a parent, she has a student in this situation and online

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Learning is not as good as being in person in the classroom. Was not contacted about the situation on Saturday prior to the team being pulled from the court in front of several other teams, which was devastating to their mental state. The teams were quarantined prior to school starting and were given instructions by the Health Department so this not to happen again. They followed the rules, the girls were in a gym, with masks on, during practice, every moment of the day and 27 girls were quarantined. Could understand 8 being quarantined because of their contact with the athlete. Does not feel the other girls should be since they followed the Health Dept mandates. This particular girl was also in a PE class with 60 students who do not wear masks, but only 2 of those students were quarantined. Does not believe blanket quarantines were in the best interest of the students. Is better to be in school until symptoms are shown and then be in modified quarantine. Cannot imagine what Karen and her staff are dealing with, but is asking for more communication, more direct contact with those involved that could give better information. Reaching out in emails and phone calls that do not get returned was very disturbing as a parent and head coach. The coaches and managers were not quarantined.

- Karen Winkelman: They were made aware of the situation and acted quickly. They had guidance and recommendation from KDHE on what public health would recommend. Early on in conversations with COVID, they met with superintendents to establish a primary contact with the school. Kris Thexton agreed to be the primary contact person. Had conversations with the nurse that initiated the conversation and with Kris Thexton. Provided Thexton with the recommendations of public health and he made the decision, not the Health Dept. Thexton made the final decision.
- Khris Thexton: It is true, they have spoken as a district and also as county superintendents and they do have one point of contact, not that that had always been the case. When he was made aware of the positive case, the Health Dept never said this recommendation was his choice alone. In the past, these quarantines from the Health Dept stated these kids must be quarantined. When they say it was his call, you can say that about anything as his role as superintendent. He works with a variety of different people in this process and when the Health Dept says that it is their recommendation to quarantine, and I do not follow that recommendation, what position does that put me in? I feel like if we want to work together as a county and community to keep kids safe, it is not about assigning blame. It is my job to make that call, but I am not making that call on a whim, I am relying on the Health Dept and the medical community. Has a daughter that is now quarantined for the second time related to volleyball. If I wanted kids to continue to play, that would be selfish on my part because I have a child that was actually there when I had to make that call. As a father, making that call for your daughter, that is not a call I want to make, but it was recommended by the Health Dept. Cooperation is needed to keep everyone safe and should be shared equally.
- Comm Schartz: Thanked Thexton for being here and said she felt there had been misinformation and not good communication. Treasured the working relationship between the school and Health Department. All in this together in a bad situation. All we are trying to do is keep people as safe as we can on the day that we are presented. Would like to see the county and schools continue to work together. Karen does not make the decision alone; you were brought into the conversation and your information is valued and that helps make the decisions. There is no blame to be had, trying to keep people as safe as possible.
- Khris Thexton: We have excellent nurses in our district, we rely on them heavily. Felt the school nurses could handle the contact tracing. Feels like they make a decision, but it gets overruled. The line of communication between the school districts' nurses and the Health Dept nurses should be clarified. There has been discussion about terms, recommended quarantine vs. ordered quarantine, they have not received clarification on that at the superintendent level. If you walk down the halls of our school, you will see all staff and students wearing masks. Doing everything they can to keep school in session. It is important to our families, to our students and our staff. Felt the schools were going above and beyond to help our kids out and keep our community safe. Just ask for that same help.
- Comm Schartz: Regarding the comment about calls not being returned, that was why there was 1 person designated as contact person. The Health Dept staff is overworked. Karen has not had a day off since March. She is dealing with this all of the time and she nor her staff have time to field all of the calls. Often times, people do not want information, but want to vent and complain. Those calls take a lot of time and make it hard to get their jobs done.

PROCLAMATION 2020-09

**NATIONAL RECOVERY MONTH
September, 2020**

WHEREAS, the misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and illicit drugs is costly to our Nation, exacting more than \$740 billion annually in costs related to crime, lost work productivity and health care according to the National Institute on Drug Abuse; and

WHEREAS, impacts on family dynamics caused by substance misuse may include strained relationships, financial hardships, poor performance at work or in school, exposure to other drugs, reckless behavior, theft or other criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, testing for Acute Childhood Experiences (ACEs) includes abuse, neglect and household dysfunction, specifically listing physical, emotional and sexual abuse; mental illness; incarceration; household violence and absent parent, the possibility of which is increased in homes affected by alcohol and illicit drug use and misuse; and

WHEREAS, recovery is a process of change through which people improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential by better managing health, home, purpose and community:

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT PROCLAIMED by the Board of County Commissioners of Barton County, Kansas, that September, 2020, shall be known as National Recovery Month; and

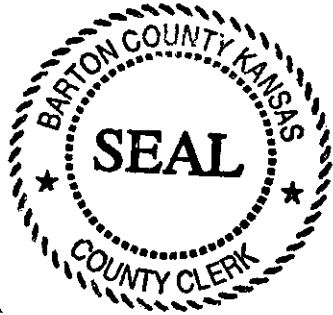
FURTHER, that Rise Up Central Kansas, united with Central Kansas Partnership, is one of the local resources for recovery and resilience-based services; and

FURTHER, that by building a durable network of mental and physical health professionals, social service workers, school officials, law enforcement personnel and persons with lived experience, Rise Up Central Kansas partners are poised to offer families the means to build resilience, offsetting the effects of ACEs and reducing the public cost of addiction; and

FURTHER, that all families are encouraged to reach out to public or private resources as are necessary for assistance in dealing with substance misuse, recovery and resilience; and

FURTHER, that citizens are urged to be mindful of the work needed to recover from substance misuse, to give grace and opportunities to those persons in our community living in recovery and to be present in the lives of our children, helping to build resilience for future generations.

Adopted this 21st day of September, 2020.



ATTEST:

Donna Zimmerman
Donna Zimmerman by Bar Schmedler
County Clerk *Asst Deputy*

BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Kenny Schremmer
Kenny Schremmer, Chairman

James R. Daily
James R. Daily, Commissioner

APPROVED VIA TEAMS
Don Davis, Commissioner

Homer Kruckenberg
Homer Kruckenberg, Commissioner

Jennifer Schartz
Jennifer Schartz, Commissioner

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Shelly Duvall: It is very hard for a superintendent. He cannot be at the practices everyday to see what is going on and actually understand what was happening at practices. A coach would better be able to explain the contacts. The varsity team has been separated from the others on different courts. It did not make sense that coaches and managers, who were in the same gym, were not quarantined with the team members.

- Comm Schartz: It is a moving target. We are doing the best we can. That is the only answer she can give. It is not going to be perfect. We are just trying to keep as many safe as possible. Would personally rather err on the side of caution.
- Shelly Duvall: Have to agree to disagree
- Comm Daily: Asked Winkelman if she was following up on the quarantine of the student athletes.
- Karen Winkelman: We are mailing quarantine recommendations.
- Misty Nachtigal, RN: Feels for Karen, knows she is overwhelmed. Can the Commission give her any backup? Was under the impression that the CDC had 4 different recommendations for quarantine.
- Karen Winkelman: We follow KDHE guidelines.
- Phil Hathcock: As stated earlier, we met with school districts and other individuals to set-up 1 point of contact. When investigations started, we got different stories. One story from the person testing positive, another story from the parents, another one from coaches. This brings in a whole different level of investigation. It is the responsibility of the contact person to speak with coacher, teachers, etc.
- Shelly Duvall: Understands that, but the team was already quarantined. Never able to have that conversation.
- Phil Hathcock: His understanding was that Karen was given a list of close contacts based on the information given to the school.
- Khris Thexton: The list given to the Health Dept was not the list used for quarantines.
- Phil Hathcock: That was not his understanding.
- Shelly Duvall: The school nurse gave a list of girls that were in direct contact. The Health Dept overrode that and quarantined the entire team. They requested the entire roster and there should only have been 8 girls quarantined.
- Phil Hathcock: It was his understanding that the list came from the school.
- Khris Thexton: Our nurse gave a list, but that was not the list used.
- John Popp, Asst Supt: Asked if the school district and Health Department could review the list.
- Phil Hathcock: Absolutely, very reasonable request. As far as the orders and recommendations, several weeks ago we went to recommendations on quarantines since the virus was now community spread and the Health Dept was so overwhelmed.
- Khris Thexton: Asked for clarification but never received it.
- Phil Hathcock: As you know, last week we had over 80 cases. Very busy.

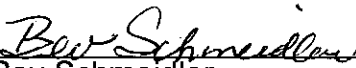
VI. ADJOURN:

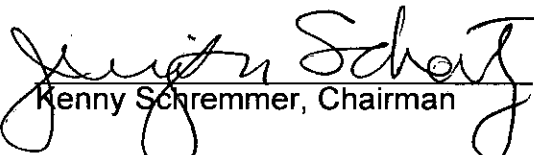
Commissioner Schartz made a motion to adjourn at 9:58 A.M.

Commissioner Kruckenberg seconded the motion.

All voted aye. Motion passed.

ATTEST:


Bev Schmeidler
Barton County Assistant Deputy Clerk


Kenny Schremmer, Chairman